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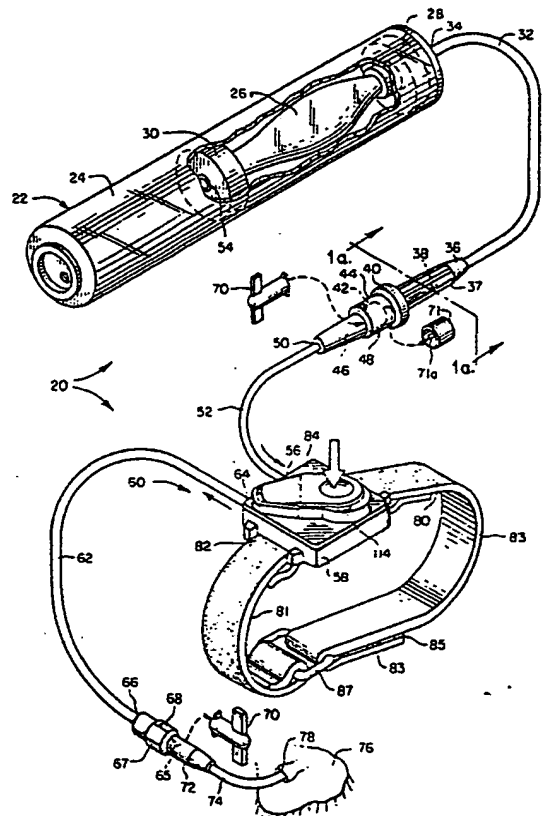
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(54) Title: PATIENT-CONTROLLED DELIVERY OF BENEFICIAL AGENTS

(57) Abstract

An apparatus (60) and system (20) for the patient-controlled delivery of an analgesic or other beneficial agent (142), while preventing administration of a toxic quantity of the beneficial agent. The invention permits delivery of fractional doses to a patient in quantities which are directly proportional to the time period since the last dose or fraction thereof was delivered to the patient. In the preferred embodiments the apparatus includes a housing (58) including a casing (88) and a back plate (86), the housing containing a control switch (84) for opening and closing downstream conduit (62) and for depressing a floating plate (100) that thereby compresses a dose reservoir (90) with the beneficial agent (142) therein. A spring (124) biases the control switch (84).



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Description

PATIENT CONTROLLED DELIVERY OF BENEFICIAL AGENTS

Technical Field of the Invention

10

The present invention is directed to the controlled delivery of preselected quantities of fluid and is more particularly directed to a system and apparatus for the delivery of a preselected quantity of drug or other beneficial agent to a patient, wherein the patient can control, up to the maximum preselected amount, the amount of beneficial agent administered.

15

Background of the Invention

20

Analgesics comprise a large portion of the drugs administered by hospital pharmacies. Analgesics are often prescribed postoperatively to relieve pain. There is great difficulty in properly administering analgesics. The patient need for analgesics varies greatly. Some patients continue to suffer even after given conventional doses of analgesics. Similarly, some patients never request analgesics. Age, hepatic function, renal function, and other medication all affect the pharmacokinetics of analgesics.

25

Due to the fear of addiction with narcotic drugs, doctors tend to underprescribe the use of analgesics. For the same reason, nurses tend to underadminister analgesics.

30

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In the area of analgesics, there has been much activity in the last several years directed to letting the patient control how much drug he or she receives. It has been found that as a group, patients controlling the quantity of pain killer they receive use less than patients who must request the administration of a pain killer. Apparently, one factor is the psychological relief present when a patient knows he or she is in control of the amount of drug to be received, up to a maximum limit.

The inventors are aware of certain devices that are on the market, or that are in the process of obtaining government regulatory approval, which are directed to the patient-controlled delivery of analgesics. These devices include the Cardiff Palliator by Pye Dynamics Ltd. or Graseby Dynamics of the United Kingdom; the On-Demand Analgesic Computer (ODAC) model JSI 0299 made by Janssen Scientific Instruments; a PCA infuser by Abbott Laboratories, Inc.; the Harvard PCA Pump by C.R. Bard Inc.; and a pump by Deltec Systems Inc. All of these pumps are large and bulky, the smallest pump being the Deltec pump, which is approximately as large as a telephone. All of the above-mentioned devices are electromechanical in nature, requiring a separate power source. Although the Deltec unit may conceivably be worn by patients, it is believed that the remainder of the pumps mentioned above confine the patient to a bed, or some other fixed location.

Another problem associated with these devices is that after the drug is loaded into the pump, certain control factors must be set by the nurse or other person who actually sets up the pump with the patient. These limits may include the minimum time period for delivering a dose of the drug and the size of the drug dose to be delivered when the patient actuates the pump. These limits to be set by the nurse or other personnel provide extra opportunities for error in administering the pain killer and provide additional sources of concern for hospital personnel that must be checked and

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rechecked during administration of the drug. Yet another problem with existing devices is that they are relatively expensive and may include some rather complex electronic components.

- 5 It would be desirable for the medical community to have an apparatus and system for the patient-controlled delivery of a pain killer or other beneficial agent which does not have any of the problems identified above and which can be made at a cost low enough to permit the entire apparatus and system to be disposable, if desired.

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Summary of the Invention

5 The apparatus and system of the present invention provide for the patient-controlled delivery of a analgesic or other beneficial agent up to a maximum, safe rate limit, while avoiding all of the problems described above. The apparatus is small and lightweight, permitting the patient to be ambulatory. In the preferred embodiment, the apparatus is the size of a large men's wristwatch and may be worn in the same manner as a watch, about the wrist.

10 The apparatus is completely mechanical, requiring no electrical power source of any kind which could otherwise malfunction. There is no concern about a battery or battery power level or battery life. No expensive controls, either computer operated or otherwise are required. The apparatus is completely preset by the
15 manufacturer, so that once the proper drug is loaded into the system, no further setting of any administration limits, such as dose quantity or the dose delivery time period, are either necessary or possible.

20 The apparatus of the invention provides a certain maximum volume of beneficial agent that may be delivered in a certain time period. The apparatus permits the delivery to the patient, as controlled by the patient, of a bolus amount of beneficial agent in discrete dose volumes or fractional dose volumes, as selected by the patient; however, the apparatus assures that the fractional bolus doses which
25 the patient may decide to administer will be of a size increasing substantially linearly with the time interval since administration of the last full bolus dose or fractional bolus dose, thereby preventing a drug overdose.

30 The apparatus and system of the present invention are inexpensive enough relative to hospital labor costs so that the entire apparatus and system may be made and sold as a disposable device.

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1 The system and apparatus of the present invention are believed
2 to be as accurate or more accurate than any of the known
3 patient-controlled drug delivery devices, all of which are
4 substantially more expensive than the apparatus and system of the
5 present invention and require dedication to an electrical power
6 source, either plug-in or battery.

7 The system of the present invention includes a supply means for
8 storing a beneficial agent and pump means for expressing the
9 beneficial agent from the supply means. In the preferred
10 embodiment, the pump means is a completely mechanical device. The
11 supply means and pump means are preferably as provided by the
12 Travenol Infusor, manufactured and sold by Travenol Laboratories,
13 Inc. of Deerfield, Illinois and described for example in U.S. Patent
14 No. 4,386,929 to Peery et al. entitled, "Elastomeric Bladder
15 Assembly".

16 The system of the present invention further includes a dose
17 reservoir downstream of the supply means for receiving a preselected
18 quantity of beneficial agent, and control means actuated by the
19 patient for expressing the dose volume of the beneficial agent or a
20 fraction thereof from the dose reservoir and into the patient.
21 Upstream Passageway means such as flexible plastic conduit connects
22 the liquid supply having the beneficial agent therein with the dose
23 reservoir. Downstream passageway means connect the dose reservoir
24 with the patient access site such as at an intravenous catheter.

25 The apparatus of the present invention includes the dose
26 reservoir and control means. The system of the present invention
27 provides for a substantially constant flow rate of beneficial agent
28 from the supply means to the dose reservoir, the flow rate being
29 preset so as to prevent a toxic dose of beneficial agent from being
30 delivered to the patient.

31 The control means includes a control switch actuated by the
32 patient and operatively connected to valve means including a first
33 mode closing the passageway means out of the dose reservoir to the

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patient and a second mode in which that passageway means is open. The control means includes biasing means which maintains the valve means in the closed mode until the biasing means is overcome by the actuation force provided by the patient on the control switch.

5 The control switch is further operatively connected to dose reservoir compression means for compressing the dose reservoir and expressing the beneficial agent out of the dose reservoir through the outlet thereof and into the patient. The apparatus of the present invention assures actuation of the valve means into the open
10 mode before actuation of the compression means, thereby preventing a dangerously high pressure level in the dose reservoir.

 In one embodiment of the invention, the dose reservoir comprises a flexible sheet sealed by means such as a pressure seal about its periphery against the back plate of the housing, thereby forming the
15 dose reservoir therebetween. In a second embodiment of the invention, the dose reservoir is formed by means of two flexible sheets sealed together about their peripheries. In a third embodiment of the invention, an initially separate set that includes the dose reservoir and the upstream and downstream passageway means
20 is provided. The set is installed into the apparatus housing. In the first and second embodiments, the entire apparatus may be treated as a disposable unit. In the third embodiment the housing may be treated as suitable for repeated use, with only the disposable set being replaced.

Brief Description of the Drawings

FIG. 1 is a perspective view of the system of the present invention;

5 FIG. 1a is a cross-sectional view taken at line 1a-1a of FIG. 1;

FIG. 2 is a top plan view of the apparatus of the present invention;

FIG. 3 is a bottom plan view of the apparatus of the present invention;

10 FIG. 4 is a partially cut-away, exploded view of the apparatus;

FIG. 4a is a fragmentary cross-sectional view taken at line 4a-4a of FIG. 4.

FIG. 5 is a cross-sectional view of the apparatus taken through line 5-5 of FIGS. 2 and 3, illustrating the dose reservoir in the filled state and the valve means in the closed mode.

15 FIG. 6 is a cross-sectional view as in FIG. 5, illustrating the control switch as depressed by the patient, with the valve means in the open mode and the compression means compressing the dose reservoir;

20 FIG. 7 is a cross-sectional view as in FIG. 5, illustrating the control switch as fully depressed by the patient, with the dose reservoir completely compressed;

FIG. 8 is a cross-sectional view as in FIG. 5, immediately after patient release of the control switch, illustrating the valve means in the closed mode, with the dose reservoir not yet filled;

25 FIG. 9 is a bottom plan view of second and third embodiments of the apparatus of the invention;

FIG. 10 is a cross-sectional view of the apparatus of FIG. 9;

FIG. 11 is a perspective view of a set which may be used with the apparatus of FIG. 9 in the third embodiment.

30

Detailed Description of Preferred Embodiments

The First Embodiment

5

Referring to FIG. 1, there is illustrated the system 20 of the present invention. The system 20 includes an elastomeric bladder assembly 22 which in turn comprises both supply means and pump means. The elastomeric bladder assembly 22 includes a shell 24 in which is mounted an elastomeric bladder 26 secured at one end to a shell end cap 28 and at the other end to a floating piston 30 which moves along the length of the shell 24 as the bladder 26 is filled and emptied. The interior of the elastomeric bladder 26 communicates with the interior of bladder assembly tubing 32 connected at its proximal end 34 to the shell end cap 28. The distal end 36 of the bladder assembly tubing 32 includes capillary housing 37 containing a glass capillary flow restrictor 38, and a male Luer taper locking device 40. The male Luer taper locking device 40 includes the male Luer taper 42 and an outer internally threaded locking ring 44 for securing the locking device 42 to a female Luer taper 46 with external flanges 48 mounted at the proximal end 50 of the upstream apparatus conduit 52.

The elastomeric bladder assembly 22 is similar to that sold under the name Travenol® Infusor by Travenol Laboratories of Deerfield, Illinois, Product Code No. 2C1070, the principal differences being that the flow rate of the system 20 is set at a higher rate than that commercial product and the flow rate restrictor 38 is at the distal end 36 of the assembly tubing 32. In Product Code No. 2C1070 the flow restrictor is in the shell end cap. An elastomeric bladder assembly with a distal flow restrictor

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such as illustrated in FIG. 1 is shown in co-pending United States patent application Serial No. 689,420 filed on January 7, 1985, assigned to the assignee of the present invention. Although the system 20 will work with the flow restrictor 38 in either location, it is believed that the system 20 works best with the distal flow restrictor location illustrated in FIG. 1.

The elastomeric bladder 26 of the assembly 22 is self-pressurized; i.e., as a liquid such as a beneficial agent is injected through the injection site 54 of the assembly 22, the elastomeric bladder 26 expands. The elastomeric bladder 26 exerts a substantially constant pressure on its liquid contents throughout the volume range of the elastomeric bladder 26. The pressure from the bladder 26 on the liquid therein is about eight to ten PSI, although the pressure of the liquid after passing through the flow restrictor 38 is much lower, preferably just at or slightly higher than venous pressure.

The glass capillary flow restrictor 38 determines the rate of fluid flow out the male Luer taper 42, at a substantially constant flow rate. In the preferred embodiment of the invention, the elastomeric bladder assembly 22, with the flow restrictor 38, is manufactured to deliver liquid at a flow rate of approximately five mls per hour.

The apparatus 60 of the present invention includes upstream passageway means, which comprises the female Luer taper 46 and the upstream apparatus conduit 52 which is connected at its distal end 56 to the housing 58. The apparatus 60 includes downstream passageway means including downstream apparatus conduit 62 connected at its proximal end 64 to the housing 58 and including at its distal end 66 a male Luer taper locking device 68 which may be like the male Luer taper locking device 40 of the elastomeric bladder assembly 22, including a male Luer taper 65 and a locking ring 67.

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In FIG. 4 the locking ring 67 is not shown in order to illustrate the Luer taper 65. The upstream and downstream conduits 52, 62 may be made of polyvinyl chloride material.

5 The male Luer taper locking devices 40, 68 include removable pressure closures 70 to keep the fluid paths of the bladder assembly 22 and the apparatus 60 closed from the outside environment and maintain whatever necessary degree of sterility has been previously obtained in the fluid paths, until a closure is removed. The removable closures 70 are preferably like the closure sold by
10 Travenol Laboratories, Inc. with its Travenol Infusor, Product Code No. 2C1070 and disclosed in U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 420,981, filed September 21, 1982. The pressure closures 70 prohibit the flow of liquid even when the bladder assembly 22 and the system 20 are stored for extended time periods such as up to two weeks
15 after the bladder 26 is filled. The female Luer taper 46 includes a removable closure 71 of standard construction, including an internal closure male Luer taper 71a. The closures 70, 71 are typically removed by hospital personnel.

20 After the pharmacist fills the elastomeric bladder assembly 22, he or she connects the male Luer taper locking device 40 of the assembly 22 to the female Luer taper 46 of the apparatus 60. The pressure closure 70 on the male Luer taper locking device 68 prevents flow of the beneficial agent out of the apparatus 60 even if the control switch 84 is inadvertently activated before
25 connection of the system 20 to the patient's injection site 78.

The male Luer taper locking device 68 may be secured to the catheter hub 72 of a catheter 74 such as an intravenous catheter. The catheter 74 pierces the patient's skin 76 at the patient injection site 78.

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The housing 58 of the apparatus 60 may be worn in the same manner as a watch. In the preferred embodiment, the housing 58 includes wrist band portions 80, 81 which may be made of Velcro® material to provide for infinite adjustment of the band 80, 81. The
5 band portion 80 includes a pad segment 83, and a bristle segment 85. The band 80 is inserted through the clasp 87. The bristle segment 85 is then folded back to grasp the pad segment 83. The wrist band portions 80, 81 may be secured to the housing 58 in the same manner as a watch, the housing 58 including mounting pins 82 to
10 which the wrist band portions 80, 81 are secured.

Referring now to FIGS. 2 through 8 and particularly FIGS. 2 through 4a, the housing 58 of the apparatus 60 includes a back plate 86 secured by plurality of screws 89 or other securement means to a casing 88. The back plate 86 may be optically transparent to permit
15 a visual inspection of the interior of the housing 58.

A portion of the back plate 86 is a raised plateau 98 that forms one wall of the dose reservoir 90. A dose reservoir inlet 92 and a dose reservoir outlet 94 are formed within the back plate 86. Referring to FIG. 4, in the illustrated embodiment, the inlet 92
20 includes a channel portion 92a and a bore portion 92b communicating with the channel portion 92a and the interior of the dose reservoir 90. The upstream apparatus conduit 52 is secured by friction fit and also preferably by solvent bonding into the bore portion 92b. The conduit may be secured by solvent bonding to the channel portion
25 92a. The channel portion 92a serves as a track to trap the conduit in a fixed location when the back plate 86 is secured to the casing 88.

Similarly, the dose reservoir outlet 94 includes an outlet channel portion 94a and an outlet bore portion 92b communicating

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with both the interior of the dose reservoir 90 and with the outlet channel portion 94a. The downstream apparatus conduit 62 is secured to the outlet 94 in the same manner as the upstream conduit 52 is secured to the inlet 92.

5 A circular, flexible sheet 96 is placed on top of the raised plateau 98 of the back plate 86. The periphery of the circular flexible sheet 96 rests on the periphery of the raised plateau 98. The circular flexible sheet 96 may be made of polyisoprene rubber material for example.

10 The dose reservoir 90 is formed by utilizing pressure seal structure in the housing to press the flexible sheet 96 adjacent its periphery against the raised plateau 98, creating a liquid-tight seal between the sheet 96 and the plateau 98. More particularly, the casing 88 includes a downwardly extending annular rib 134
15 disposed below and outwardly of the guide bore 108, so that the annular rib 134 is directly above the periphery of the sheet 96 and the raised plateau 98. When the back plate 86 is secured to the casing 88 such as with the four screws 89 during manufacture, the periphery of the circular flexible sheet 96 is trapped between the
20 annular rib 134 and the raised plateau.

 The control means of the apparatus includes dose reservoir compression means which in the preferred embodiment of the invention includes a floating plate 100 that rests on top of the flexible
25 sheet 96 and has a diameter less than the diameter of the raised plateau 98. The floating plate 100 includes an upper annular ridge 102 projecting from the top side 104 of the floating plate 100 at its periphery. The floating plate 100 further includes two volume indicator pegs 106 projecting from the upper annular ridge 102.

 The casing 88 includes a guide bore 108. A casing ridge
30 projects inwardly from the guide bore 108 at the top of the guide bore and acts as a stop 110 that is part of the dose compression

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means. The floating plate 100 travels in a direction perpendicular to the back plate 86, the stop 110 serving as an upper limit for the floating plate 100 when the upper annular ridge 102 thereof engages the stop 110.

5 The casing 88 defines an opening 112 for the control switch 84. Part of the opening 112 is directly above the guide bore 108 and the floating plate 100. The defined opening 112 of the casing 88 includes slots 114 in which the volume indicator pegs 106 of the floating plate 100 travel as the floating plate reaches its upper
10 limit.

 The control switch 84 is rotatably mounted upon a cylindrical pin 116 mounted in receiving sockets 118 within the casing 88. The control switch 84 includes two mounting flanges 120 each having a pin opening 122 through which the pin 116 extends.

15 The control switch 84 rotates within a narrow arc about the axis of the pin 116. A coil-type spring 124 is also mounted about the pin 116, between the mounting flanges 120. The pin extends through the inside of the coil-type spring 124. The spring 124 includes contact ends 126, 128. A spacer 130 is mounted on the pin between
20 the coil-type spring 124 and the pin 116. The contact ends 126, 128 tend to move circumferentially relative to the axis of the pin 116 and the axis of the coil-type spring 124.

 The contact end 126 contacts and urges against the underside 91 of the control switch 84. The contact end 128 contacts and urges
25 against a shelf 132 in the casing 88. The coil-type spring 124 serves as the biasing means of the apparatus 60.

 In the preferred embodiment, the control switch 84 also includes a blunt ended conduit occlusion bar 136 made integrally with the control switch and forming a single rigid part. The conduit
30 occlusion bar 136 depends downwardly from the valve end 138 of the control switch 84. As described below, the conduit occlusion bar

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136 acts with the flexible wall portion 140 of the downstream apparatus conduit 62 to form valve means for the apparatus 60.

In the preferred embodiment the flexible wall portion 140 of the conduit 62 is a tubing segment of silicone material, although it is
5 believed possible to make the flexible wall portion 140 of polyvinyl chloride material, just like the remainder of the downstream conduit 62. The silicone material segment is however easier to occlude than the polyvinyl chloride material.

10

Operation

Referring now to FIGS. 5 through 8, there is illustrated the operation of the apparatus 60, which when used in conjunction with a
15 beneficial agent supply means and pump means such as the elastomeric bladder assembly 22, together form a unique, safe, and effective system 20 for the patient-controlled delivery of a beneficial agent such as an analgesic.

Referring first to FIG. 5, there is shown the apparatus 60 after
20 connection to the supply means and pump means. The dose reservoir 90 is filled with a beneficial agent 142 to its maximum volume, which in the preferred embodiment is 0.5 ml. Because of the small but steady flow provided by the pump means, the dose reservoir 90 has over time expanded to its maximum volume, the maximum volume
25 being defined and limited by the floating plate 100 as limited by the stop 110. The spring 124 has biased the valve end 138 of the control switch 84, including the conduit occlusion bar 136, downwardly. Similarly, the spring 124 has biased the button end 144 of the control switch 84 upwardly, so that the button switch,
30 although remaining within the defined opening 112 of the casing 88, is spaced from the floating plate 100. The flexible wall portion

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140 of the downstream apparatus conduit 62 is disposed directly underneath the conduit occlusion bar 136. Indeed, the entire downstream apparatus conduit 62 may be flexible.

5 FIG. 5 illustrates the valve means in the closed mode of operation because the blunt-ended conduit occlusion bar 136 is biased against the flexible wall portion 140 of the downstream conduit 62, compressing the wall portion together to occlude the downstream apparatus conduit 62 and thus also the downstream passageway means.

10 In the state illustrated in FIG. 5, the top 107 of each volume indicator peg 106 now projects upwardly just slightly beyond the top of the casing 88. The indicator pegs 106 are intended to provide both visual and tactile notice to the patient that the dose reservoir 90 is now full. Because the top 107 of each peg 106
15 extends slightly above the top of the casing 88, the patient can tell when the dose reservoir 90 is full even in the dark, such as when in bed in the middle of the night. If desired the pegs 106 may be designed to not project this far. With such a construction the pegs could still provide visual notice of a full dose reservoir.

20 Another function of the volume indicator pegs 106 is that by moving within the slots 114, they help to maintain the floating plate 100 parallel to the raised plateau 98 during movement of the floating plate 100.

25 FIG. 6 represents the apparatus 60 as it is being actuated by the patient. The patient pushes the button end 144 of the control switch 84, the button end 144 thereby contacting the floating plate 100 and depressing it downwardly out of engagement with the stop 110 and compressing the dose reservoir 90 by urging the flexible sheet 96 against the raised plateau 98, which is a portion of the back
30 plate 86. However, it is important to the operation of the

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apparatus that before contact between the button end 144 and floating plate 100 is made, the biasing force provided by the spring 124 is overcome by the force of control switch actuation, lifting the valve end 138 and the conduit occlusion bar 136 out of engagement with the flexible wall portion 140 of the downstream conduit 62, placing the valve means in the open operating mode. Because the valve means opens before the dose reservoir 90 is compressed, the build-up of a dangerously high pressure within the dose reservoir is prevented, thus preventing rupture of the dose reservoir 90 and also preventing a dangerously high initial surge of pressure to the patient.

As the floating plate is urged downwardly by the control switch 84, the dose of beneficial agent 142 within the dose reservoir 90 is expressed out of the dose reservoir 90, through the outlet 94, downstream apparatus conduit 62 and the male Luer taper locking device 68 and then on through the catheter 74 and into the patient.

FIG. 7 illustrates the apparatus 60 as still actuated by the patient depressing the control switch 84, with the dose reservoir 90 fully compressed so that the reservoir 90 is either empty or virtually empty, containing only a minute amount of beneficial agent. The valve means 136,140 remains in the open mode of operation as long as the patient holds down the button-end 144 of the control switch 84; however, during such time no additional fluid with beneficial agent 142 therein may enter the dose reservoir 90 because of the pressure applied by the floating plate 100. If a residual, minute amount of beneficial agent does remain within the dose reservoir 90, this may be accounted for during manufacture of the apparatus 60 so that the volume of the dose delivered upon patient actuation may be accurately determined.

FIG. 8 illustrates the apparatus 60 soon after the patient actuation cycle represented by FIGS. 6 and 7 has been completed and the control switch 84 has been released. The flexible wall portion

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140 of the downstream apparatus conduit 62 is now once again occluded by the blunt-ended conduit occlusion bar 136. The valve means is thus in the closed mode of operation. In addition to closing the valve, the biasing spring 124 has also returned the button end 144 of the control switch 84 to its unactuated, upper position. The dose reservoir 90 is empty or virtually empty, the flexible sheet 96 of the dose reservoir remaining adjacent the back plate 86. The floating plate 100 rests on the circular flexible sheet 96. However, unlike the state represented in FIG. 7, the floating plate 100 can be urged upwardly by the pressure of liquid entering the dose reservoir 90.

With time, liquid from the elastomeric bladder assembly 22 will be pumped into the dose reservoir 90 through the inlet 92, thereby urging the flexible sheet 96 and thus also the floating plate 100 away from the raised plateau 98 of the back plate 86. This expansion of the dose reservoir 96 will continue until the upper annular ridge 102 of the floating plate 100 engages the stop 110, thereby limiting the maximum volume of the dose reservoir 90 and returning the apparatus 60 to the state illustrated by FIG. 5.

In the preferred embodiment of the invention, the 0.5 ml dose reservoir 90 is filled in six minutes, although other time periods and dosage reservoir volumes are certainly possible, given the speed of the pumping means and the desired drug dose. However, the system 20, preset with a particular pumping rate and dose reservoir volume when manufactured, may be used for a variety of dosage requirements by adjusting the concentration of the beneficial agent in the liquid, e.g., sterile water, to be delivered to the apparatus 60 and the patient.

With the apparatus as described above, a patient who has just completed actuation of the control switch 84 and has thereby received a dose of beneficial agent 142, may receive another full dose of beneficial agent in six minutes. The patient can wait

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longer than six minutes if desired; similarly, the patient must wait at least six minutes to receive another full dose.

However, if the patient actuates the control switch 84 sometime within the six-minute fill period of the dose reservoir 90, the patient will receive a fraction of a dose, the dose fraction value being substantially equal to the fraction of the fill time period that has elapsed. Thus, as an example, if the patient actuates the control switch 84 two minutes after a previous actuation of the control switch, the patient will receive one-third of a dose volume, given the six-minute fill period of the present example. The system 20 of the present invention permits this consistent calculation of dose delivery because the dose reservoir 90 is filled at a rate which is linear over time; i.e., the dose reservoir fill rate is substantially constant over any part of the fill period cycle.

This feature is important because it assures that no matter how often the patient actuates the control switch 84, he or she will never receive a toxic quantity of the beneficial agent. The patient will never receive more than a single dose of beneficial agent 142 during the fill period immediately following a previous actuation of the control switch 84. In the present example the fill period is six minutes.

The apparatus 60 and system 20 of the invention provide a solution to patient controlled delivery of a beneficial agent in a manner that permits no setting of any variables (and thus prevents any calculation error) by the patient or hospital personnel after the system 20 leaves the hospital pharmacy. The single calculation that must be made is the proper concentration of the beneficial agent. Standard conversion tables provided by the manufacturer can assist the hospital pharmacist in providing the correct dosage concentration.

The Second and Third Embodiments

Referring now to Figs. 9 and 10, there is disclosed a second embodiment of the present invention.

5 Here, the apparatus 60' includes a housing 58' made from a casing 88' and a back plate 146. As with the first embodiment, a control switch 84' also includes a conduit occlusion bar 136'. The control switch 84' is used to depress the floating plate 100' and the dose reservoir 148.

10 Although identical in operation to the apparatus 60, the apparatus 60' has a dose reservoir 148 that is made as a preformed unit such as by two flexible sheets 150, 152 of polyvinyl chloride material sealed at their peripheries 151 to form a chamber 154. The flexible sheets 150, 152 are sidewalls closing the chamber except
15 for an inlet 156 and an outlet 158. At least a portion of one of the flexible sheets 150, 152 is flexible enough to be pressed against the opposite sheet by the button end 144' of the control switch 84' and the floating plate 100'. As shown in Figs. 9 and 10, the dose reservoir 148 is a pillow-like structure wherein both
20 sheets 150, 152 are flexible.

Because of the preformed dose reservoir 148, the back plate 146 and the casing 88' do not require the seal structure present in the first embodiment for sealing the flexible sheet 96 to the back plate 86. The annular rib 134 is no longer necessary. The back plate 146
25 no longer includes the inlet bore 92b and the outlet bore 94b. Instead, the inlet and outlet 156, 158 may be formed by sealing the upstream apparatus conduit 160 and the downstream apparatus conduit 162 directly between the flexible sheets 150, 152, by means of solvent bonding for example. The back plate 146 may include
30 entrance and exit channels 164, 166 respectively to ensure that upstream and downstream conduit 160, 162 remain in a fixed location within the housing 58'.

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In the second embodiment, the apparatus 60' is manufactured with the upstream and downstream conduits 160, 162 and the dose reservoir 148 within the housing 58'. Thus, the external appearance of the apparatus 60' could be the same as the appearance of the apparatus 60.

Alternatively, a third embodiment of the apparatus of the invention would be identical to the apparatus 60', except that the housing 58' is delivered to the pharmacist separately from the upstream and downstream conduits 160, 162 and the dose reservoir 148. In such a third embodiment, an apparatus set 168 such as illustrated in FIG. 11 may be sold separately to be installed by hospital personnel within the housing 58', so that after installation the apparatus 60' with the set 168 therein is as illustrated in FIGS. 9 and 10.

As illustrated in FIG. 11, the apparatus set 168 includes a removable closure 71' closing the end of the female Luer adapter 46' having external flanges 48' thereon. The female Luer taper 46' is connected to upstream apparatus conduit 52' at the proximal end 50' thereof. The distal end 56' of the upstream conduit 52' is sealed between the two flexible sheets 150, 152 of the dose reservoir 148, forming an inlet 156 thereto. The sheets 150, 152 are sealed at their peripheries 151.

The dose reservoir 148 further includes an outlet 158 formed by the securement of the proximal end 64' of the downstream apparatus conduit 62' between the flexible sheets 150, 152. The distal end 66' of the downstream conduit 62' is secured to a male Luer taper locking device 68' for securement to the catheter hub of a catheter for access into the patient's body such as at the venous system. A removable pressure closure 70' closes the male Luer taper locking device 68'.

While the several embodiments and features have been described in detail herein and shown in the accompanying drawings, it will be evident that various further modifications are possible without departing from the scope of the invention.

THAT WHICH IS CLAIMED IS:

Claim 1. A system for the patient-controlled delivery of a beneficial agent, comprising:

- 5 (a) supply means for storing the beneficial agent;
- (b) conduit means for transporting the beneficial agent from the supply means to a dose reservoir;
- (c) pump means for expressing the beneficial agent out of the supply means, through the conduit means and into a dose reservoir;
- 10 (d) a dose reservoir for receiving a dose of beneficial agent from the supply means;
- (e) control means operative by the patient for selectively expressing the beneficial agent out of said dose reservoir, through an outlet thereof;
- 15 (f) wherein said system may be worn by the patient and permits the patient to be ambulatory.

Claim 2. The system in accordance with Claim 1, wherein said pump means delivers beneficial agent into said dose reservoir at a rate
20 low enough to prevent the delivery of a toxic quantity of the beneficial agent from the dose reservoir to the patient.

Claim 3. The system in accordance with Claim 1, wherein said system is free of any electrical power source.

25 Claim 4. The system in accordance with Claim 1, wherein said system is powered only by mechanical energy.

Claim 5. The system in accordance with Claim 1, wherein said supply means and said pump means comprise an expandable, elastomeric,
30 self-pressurized bladder for storing and pumping the beneficial agent.

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Claim 6. An apparatus for the patient-controlled delivery of a beneficial agent comprising:

(a) a dose reservoir for receiving and storing a dose of beneficial agent;

5 (b) an inlet to said dose reservoir, for receiving the beneficial agent under pressure;

(c) an outlet to said dose reservoir, through which beneficial agent in said dose reservoir exits said dose reservoir; and

10 (d) control means operative by the patient for selectively expressing the beneficial agent out of said dose reservoir, through said outlet;

(e) wherein said apparatus may be worn by the patient and permits the patient to be ambulatory.

15 Claim 7. The apparatus in accordance with Claim 6, wherein said control means may be repeatedly actuated by the patient, said control means permitting the delivery of fractional doses of the beneficial agent to the patient.

20 Claim 8. The apparatus in accordance with Claim 7, wherein said control means prevents delivery of a quantity of beneficial agent to the patient in excess of the dose quantity within a preselected time period.

25 Claim 9. The apparatus in accordance with Claim 6, wherein said control means and said dose reservoir permit the delivery of no greater than a dose quantity of beneficial agent to be delivered to the patient within a preselected time period.

30 Claim 10. The apparatus in accordance with Claim 6, wherein said dose reservoir is expandable to an upper limit having a volume substantially equal to a dose volume.

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Claim 11. The apparatus in accordance with Claim 6, including downstream conduit secured at one end to said outlet and having a distal end adaptable for securement to an intravenous catheter.

- 5 Claim 12. The apparatus in accordance with Claim 6, wherein said apparatus is free of any electrical power source.

Claim 13. The apparatus in accordance with Claim 6, wherein said apparatus is powered only by mechanical energy.

10

Claim 14. The apparatus in accordance with Claim 6, wherein said control means may be repeatedly actuated by the patient, said control means permitting the delivery of multiple doses of the beneficial agent to the patient at a controlled delivery rate.

15

Claim 15. The apparatus in accordance with Claim 6, further comprising a housing for said dose reservoir and said control means.

20

Claim 16. The apparatus in accordance with Claim 6, comprising:

(a) downstream passageway means having a proximal end in communication with said outlet;

- 25 (b) valve means having a closed mode of operation whereby said downstream passageway means is closed and an open mode of operation whereby said downstream passageway means is open, permitting flow of the beneficial agent therethrough;

(c) biasing means for biasing said valve means in said closed operating mode;

- 30 (d) dose reservoir compression means for compressing said dose reservoir; and

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(e) a control switch operatively connected to said valve means, said biasing means, and said compression means, such that the force of actuation of said control switch by the patient overcomes said biasing means and places said valve means in said open mode of operation, the force of actuation of said control switch also causing said control switch to operatively engage said compression means to reduce the volume of said dose reservoir and express the beneficial agent out of said dose reservoir and said outlet while said valve means is in said open mode of operation;

(f) wherein said control means includes said valve means, said biasing means, said compression means and said control switch.

Claim 17. The apparatus in accordance with Claim 16, wherein said control switch overcomes said biasing means and urges said valve means into said open mode before said control switch actuates said compression means, so that said compression means does not urge the beneficial agent out of said drug reservoir until after said valve means is in said open mode of operation.

Claim 18. The apparatus in accordance with Claim 16, wherein said biasing means comprises a spring.

Claim 19. The apparatus in accordance with Claim 16, wherein said downstream passageway means includes a downstream apparatus conduit having a flexible wall portion and wherein said valve means comprises a conduit occlusion bar which in said closed mode of operation is urged by said biasing means against said flexible wall portion, compressing said wall together to occlude said conduit.

Claim 20. The apparatus in accordance with Claim 19, wherein said conduit occlusion bar and said control switch form an integral, rigid part.

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Claim 21. The apparatus in accordance with Claim 16, wherein said dose reservoir compression means comprises:

- (a) a floating plate;
- (b) a stop engaged by said floating plate upon expansion of
5 said dose reservoir to a certain, predetermined maximum volume, said stop and said floating plate together preventing further expansion of said dose reservoir;
- (c) whereby patient-actuation of said control switch engages
10 said floating plate and, when said drug reservoir is filled to its maximum volume, also disengages said floating plate from said stop.

Claim 22. The apparatus in accordance with Claim 21, further comprising:

- (a) at least one volume indicator peg extending from said
15 floating plate on said control switch side thereof; and
- (b) a housing for said dose reservoir and said control means, said housing defining an opening for said control switch, wherein said peg is visible through said opening when said dose reservoir is full.

20

Claim 23. The apparatus in accordance with Claim 22, wherein a portion of said peg is external of said housing when said dose reservoir is full.

- 25 Claim 24. The apparatus in accordance with Claim 22, said defined opening defining a slot for each peg wherein said slot guides the travel of said floating plate to maintain said floating plate parallel to said back plate.

- 30 Claim 25. The apparatus in accordance with Claim 16, further comprising a housing for said dose reservoir and said control means.

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Claim 26. The apparatus in accordance with Claim 16, wherein:

(a) said dose reservoir has one wall defined by said housing and further includes a flexible sheet;

5 (b) said dose reservoir further comprising pressure seal structure in said housing for pressing said flexible sheet adjacent its periphery against said reservoir-defining wall of said housing, creating a liquid-tight seal therebetween.

10 Claim 27. The apparatus in accordance with Claim 16, wherein said dose reservoir comprises chamber-defining sidewalls forming a chamber closed except for said inlet and said outlet, wherein at least a portion of one of said sidewalls may be pressed against the opposite sidewall by said compression means.

15 Claim 28. The apparatus in accordance with Claim 27, wherein said dose reservoir is replaceable within said housing.

20 Claim 29. The apparatus in accordance with Claim 16, further comprising upstream passageway means having a distal end in communication with said inlet.

25 Claim 30. The apparatus in accordance with Claim 16, wherein said control means is free of any connection to any electrical power source.

Claim 31. The apparatus in accordance with Claim 16, wherein said control means is powered only by mechanical energy.

30 Claim 32. An apparatus for the patient-controlled delivery of a beneficial agent comprising:

(a) a housing adapted for receiving a dose reservoir for receiving and storing a dose of beneficial agent, wherein the dose reservoir to be received includes an inlet and an outlet thereto;

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(b) control means connected within said housing and operative by the patient for selectively expressing the beneficial agent out of the to-be-received dose reservoir, through the outlet thereof;

5 (c) wherein said apparatus may be worn by the patient and permits the patient to be ambulatory.

Claim 33. An initially separate set for use with the apparatus in accordance with Claim 32, comprising:

10 (a) upstream passageway means for connection to a supply of beneficial agent;

(b) a dose reservoir for receiving and storing a dose of beneficial agent;

(c) an inlet to said dose reservoir, connected to said upstream passageway means;

15 (d) downstream passageway means; and

(e) an outlet to said dose reservoir, said outlet being connected to said downstream passageway means.

Claim 34. The set in accordance with Claim 33, further comprising:

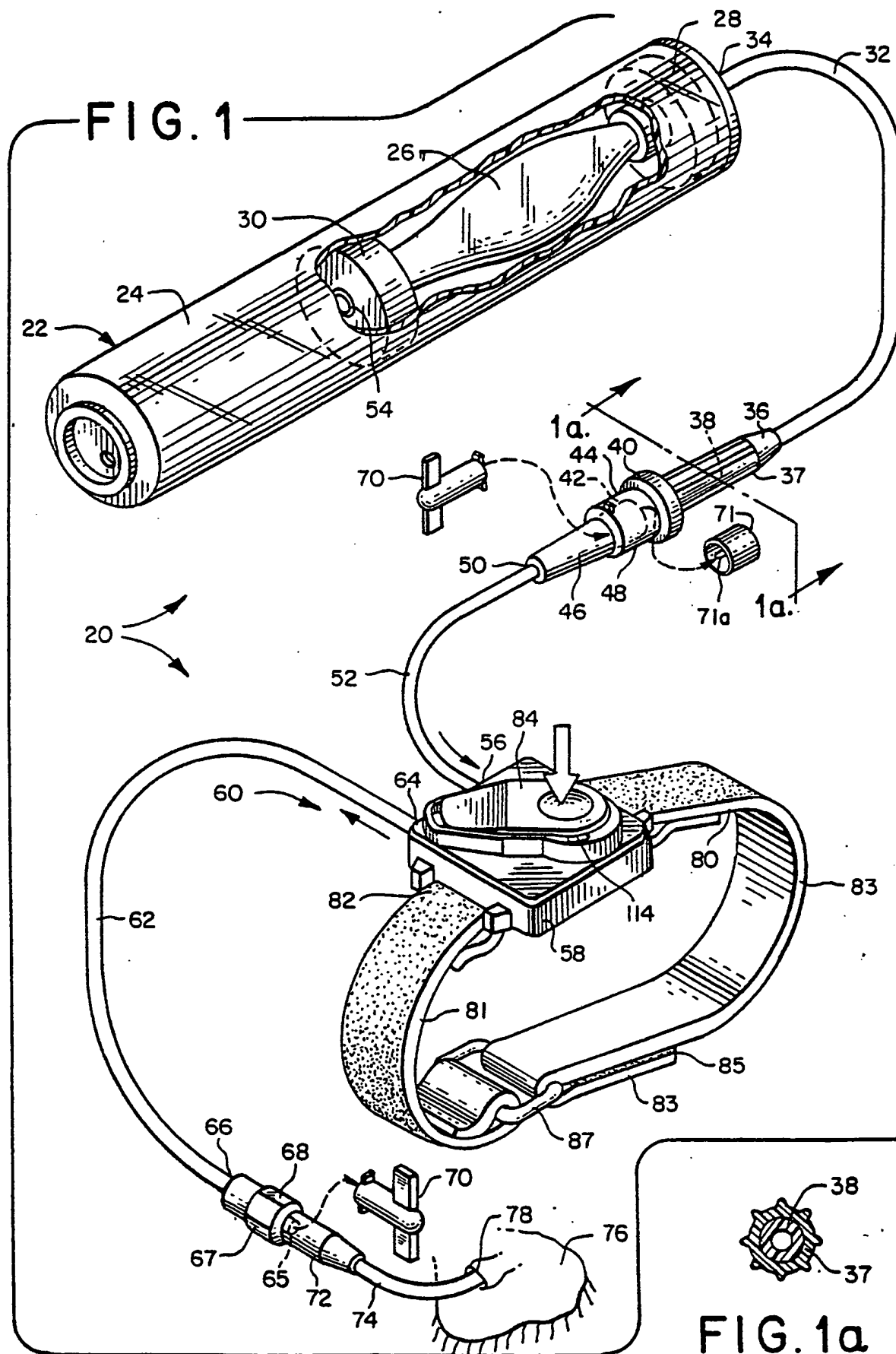
20 (a) wherein said upstream passageway means includes an upstream apparatus conduit having a proximal end and a distal end, said distal end being connected to said inlet;

(b) an upstream adapter connected to said proximal end of said upstream conduit, for connection to a supply of beneficial agent;

25 (c) said downstream passageway means including a downstream apparatus conduit having a proximal end and a distal end, said proximal end being connected to said outlet; and

(d) a downstream adapter connected to said distal end of said downstream conduit, for connection to body access means.

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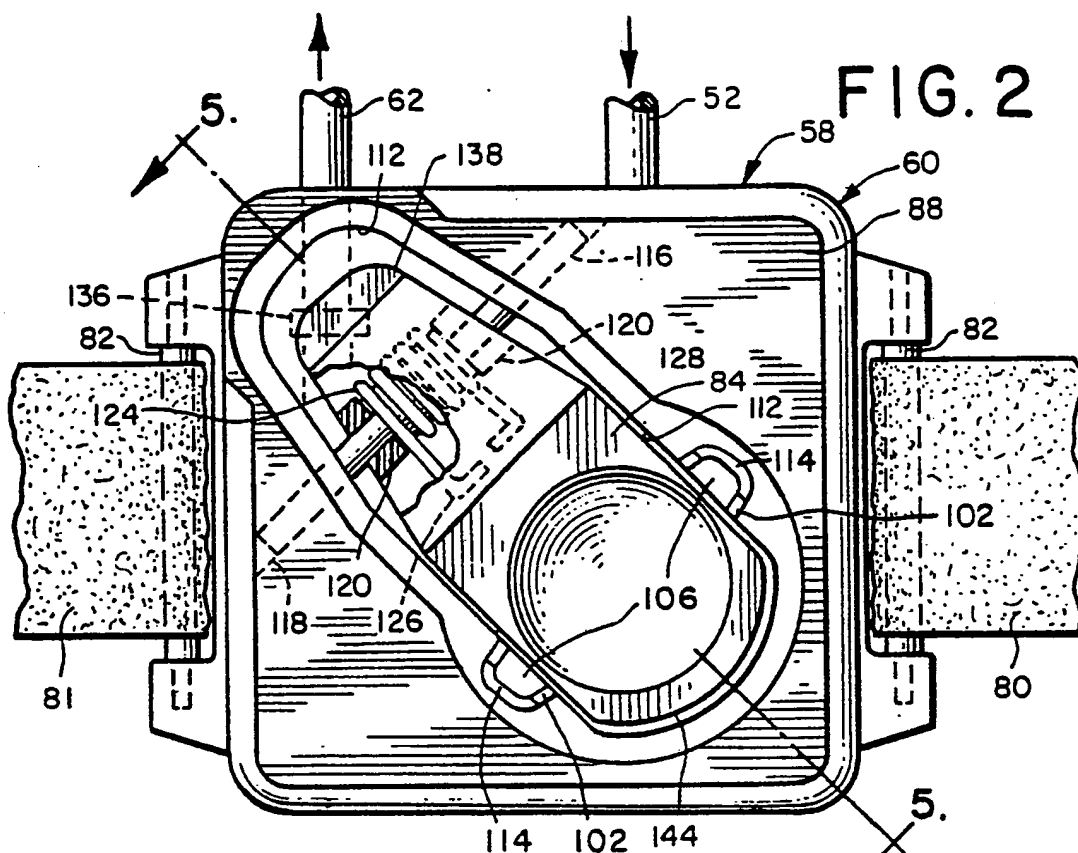
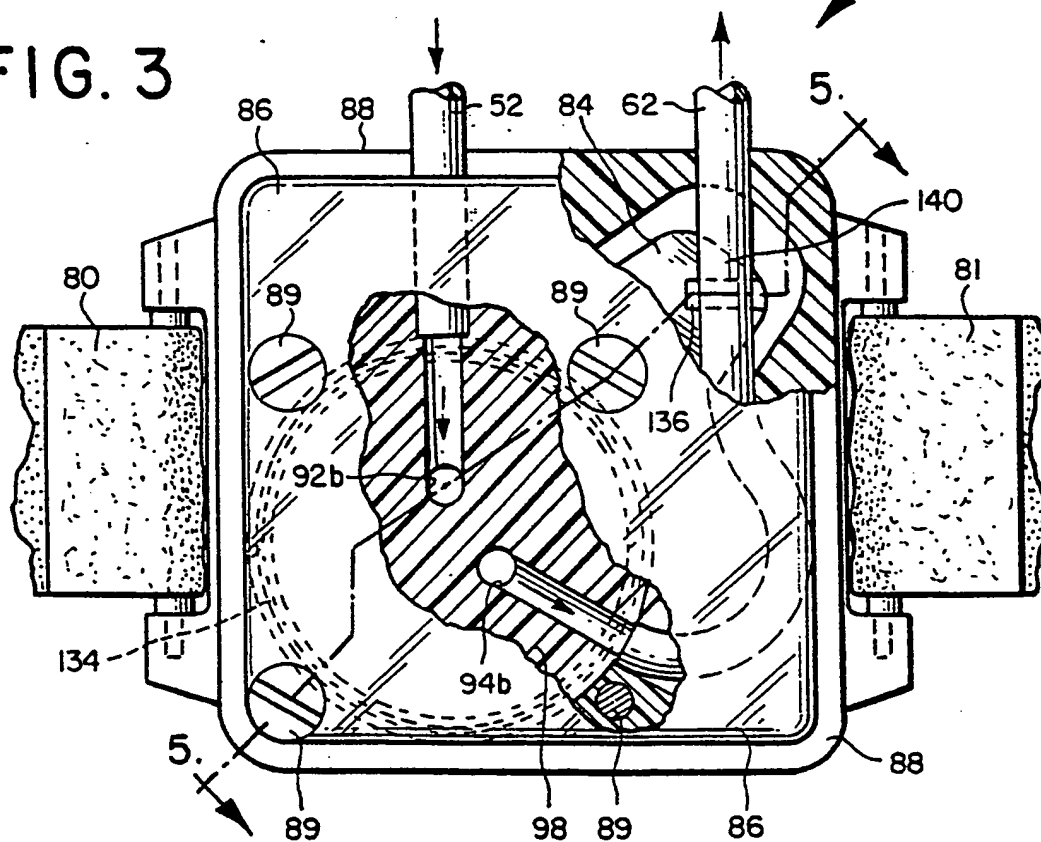
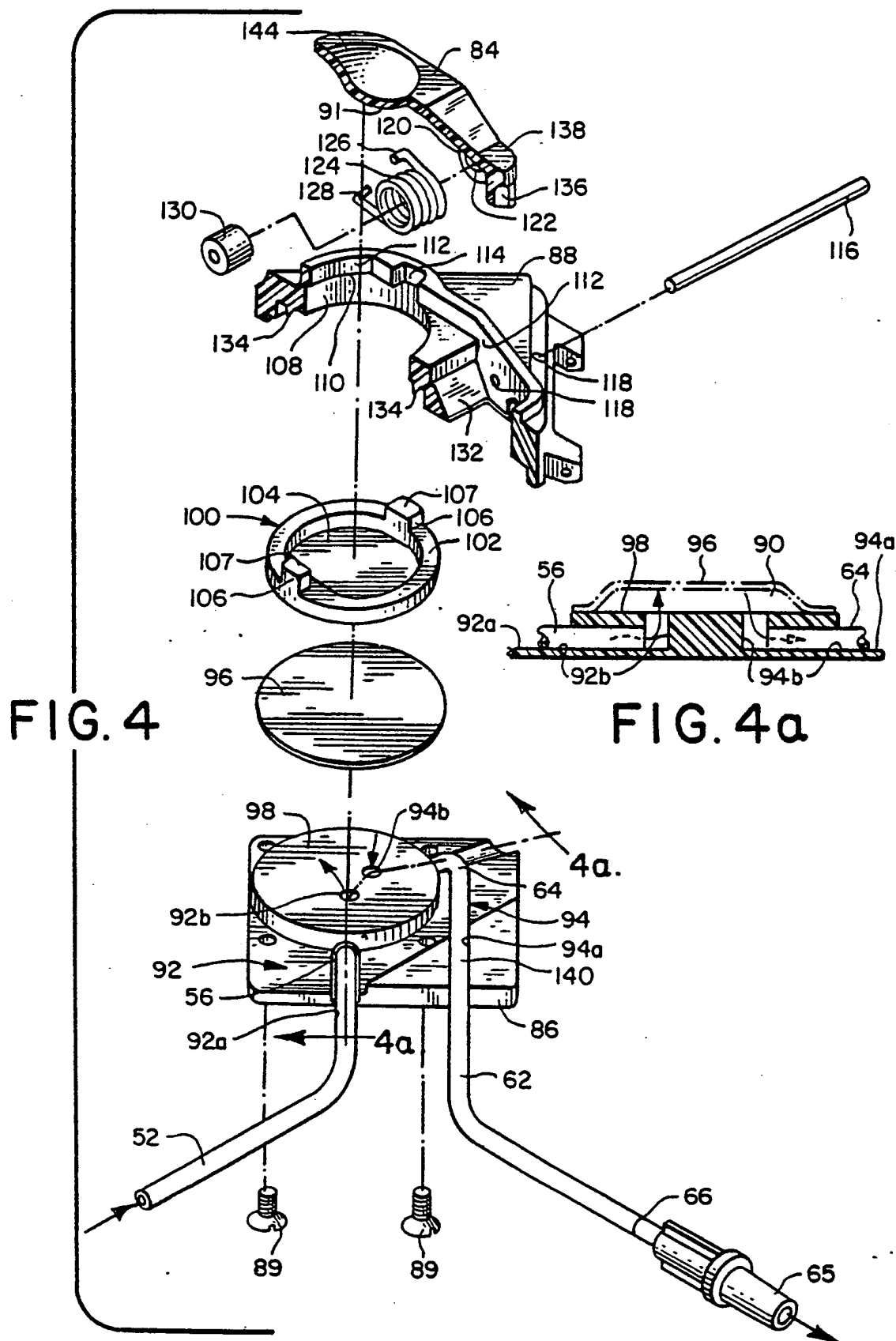


FIG. 3



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FIG. 5

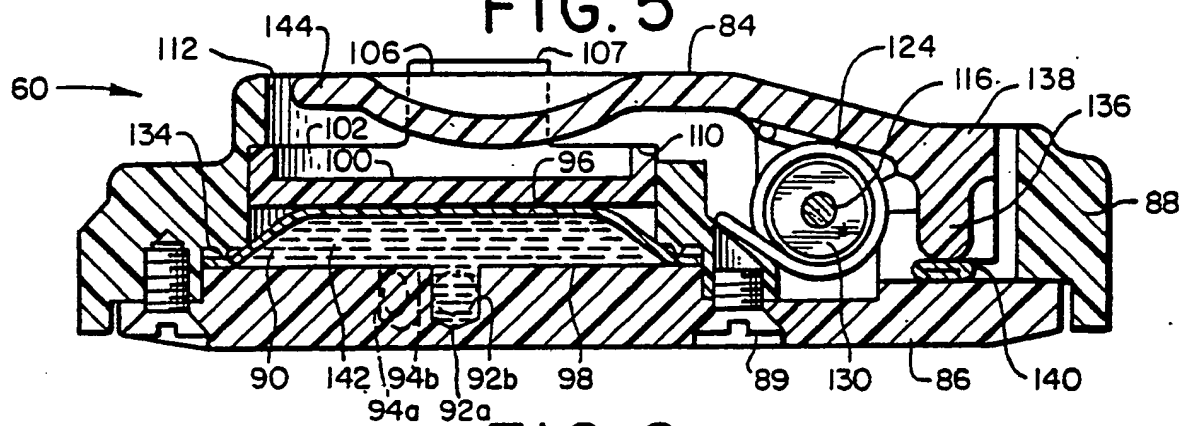


FIG. 6

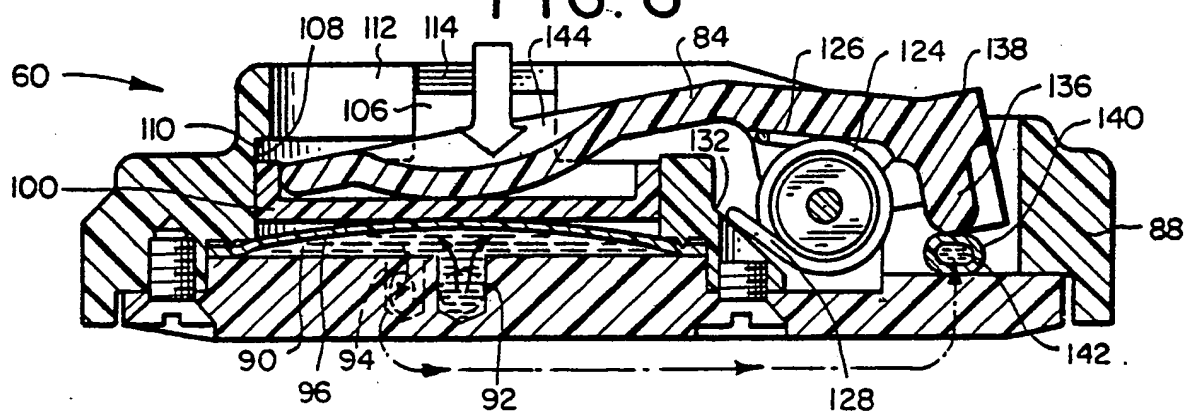


FIG. 7

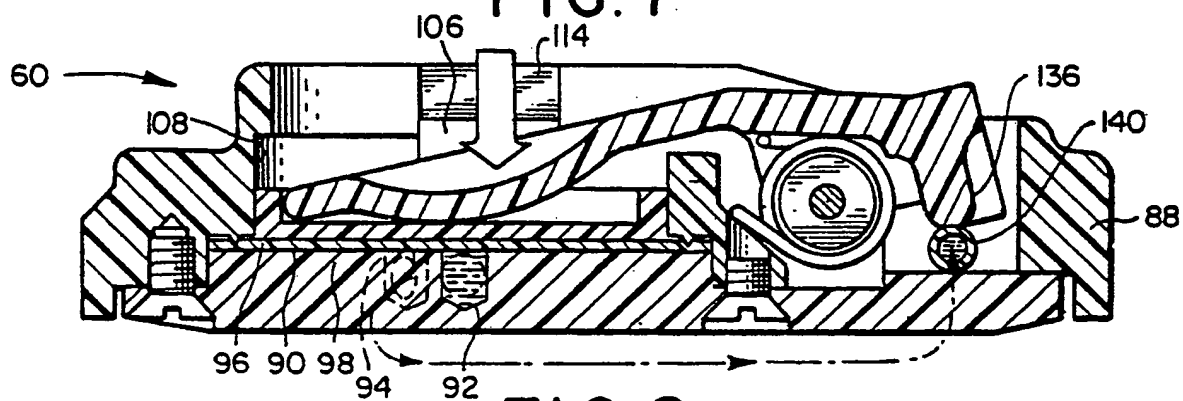
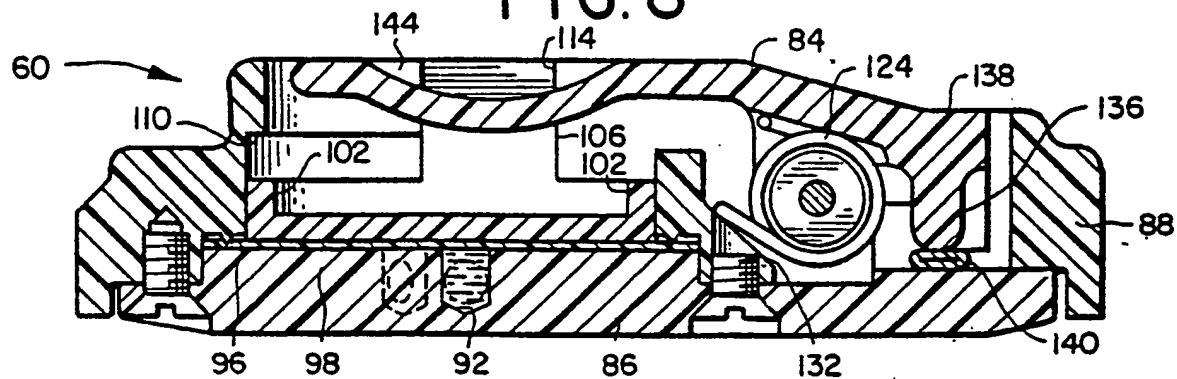


FIG. 8



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FIG. 9

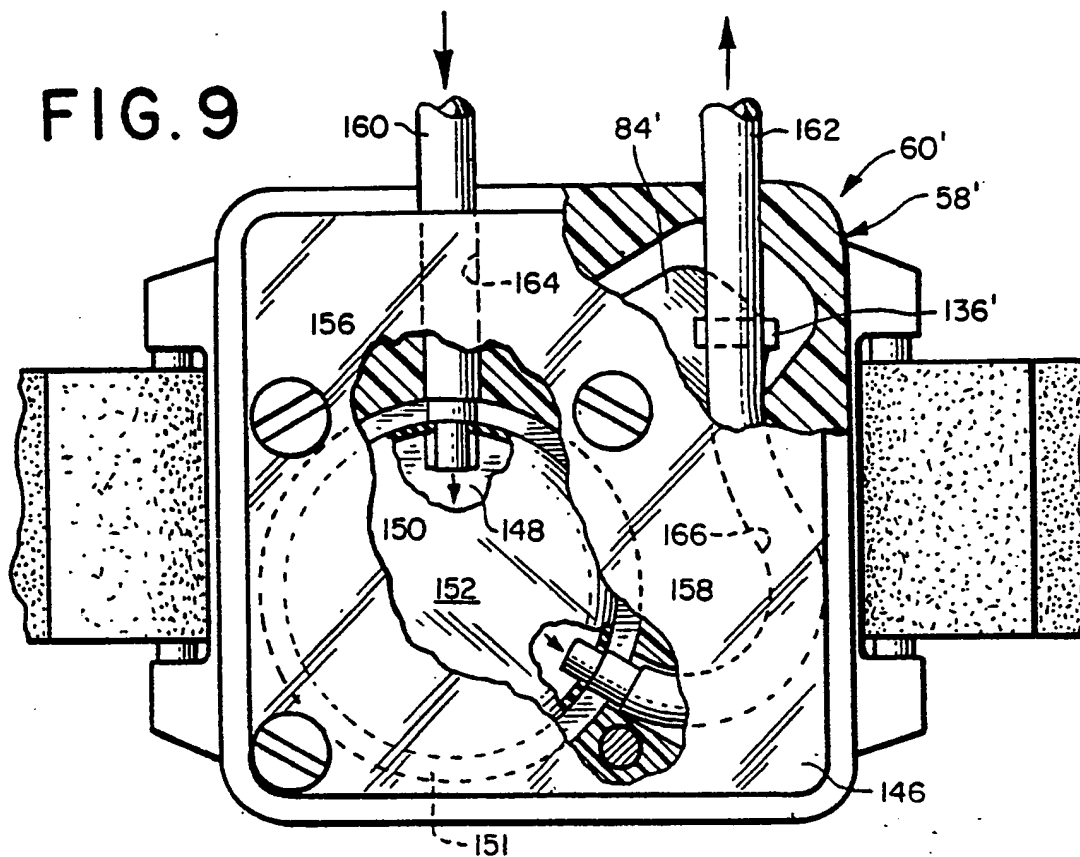


FIG. 10

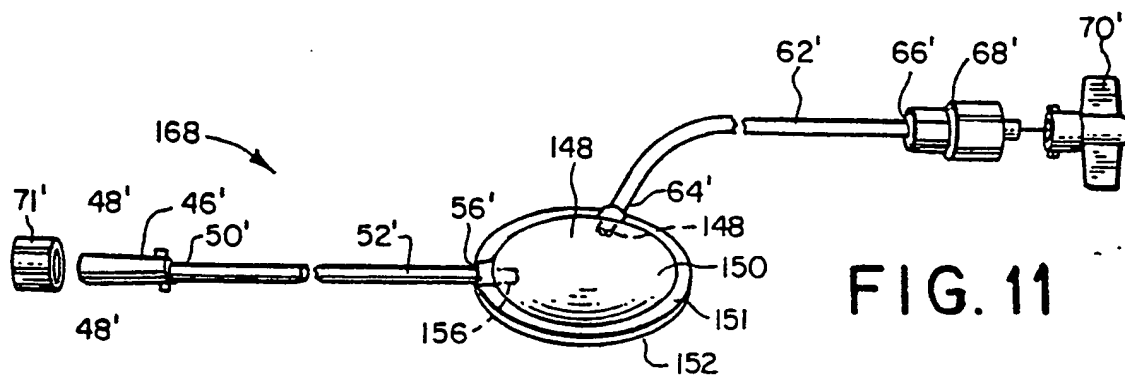
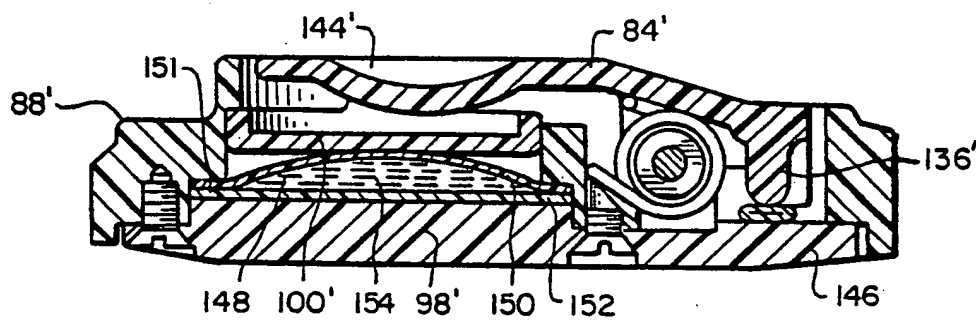


FIG. 11

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No PCT/US86/01597

I. CLASSIFICATION F SUBJECT MATTER (If several classification symbols apply, indicate all) ³		
According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both National Classification and IPC		
IPC (4) A61M 5/00 US. CL. 604/132		
II. FIELDS SEARCHED		
Minimum Documentation Searched ⁴		
Classification System	Classification Symbols	
U.S.	604/131-132, 151-153, 183, 185-186 604/246, 250, 891	
Documentation Searched other than Minimum Documentation to the Extent that such Documents are Included in the Fields Searched ⁴		
III. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT ¹⁴		
Category ⁵	Citation of Document, ¹⁶ with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages ¹⁷	Relevant to Claim No. ¹⁸
Y	US, A, 3,469,578 (BIERMAN) 30 September 1969 see column 10, lines 6-26	1-5
Y	US, A, 3,895,631 (BUCKLES et al) 22 July 1975 see column 7, lines 5-28	1-5
A	US, A, 4,121,584 (TURNER et al) 24 October 1978 see entire document	1
Y, P	US, A, 4,544,371 (DORMANDY et al) 01 October 1985 see column 5, lines 18-59	1-5
X, Y, P	US, A, 4,548,607 (HARRIS) 22 October 1985 see columns 4, 5 (all)	1-9, 11-15, 32-34
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 45%;"> <p>¹⁵ Special categories of cited documents:</p> <p>"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance</p> <p>"E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date</p> <p>"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)</p> <p>"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means</p> <p>"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed</p> </div> <div style="width: 45%;"> <p>"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention</p> <p>"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step</p> <p>"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.</p> <p>"&" document member of the same patent family</p> </div> </div>		
IV. CERTIFICATION		
Date of the Actual Completion of the International Search ¹⁹		Date of Mailing of this International Search Report ²⁰
03 November 1986		07 NOV 1986
International Searching Authority ¹		Signature of Authorized Officer ²⁰
ISA/US		D. L. Truluck